RELIGIOUS INFORMER.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY EBENEZER CHASE, P. M. ENFIELD, N. H.

To whom all letters, must be addressed.

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STATE OF THE FREEWILL BAPTIST CONNEXION,

December, 1825.

There are seven Yearly Meetings in the United States, viz. Two in the State of Maine, one in New-Hampshire, one in Vermont, one in New-York, one in Ohio, and one partly in Pensylvania and partly in New-York.

There are 23 Quarterly Meetings, 273 churches, and 190 ordained Elders of which we have received accounts, and doubtless there are several churches and preachers the names of which have not been returned.

Each Yearly Meeting is composed of Quarterly Meetings, Churches, and Preachers.

General System of order and Connexion.

CHURCHES.—Each church usually holds a stated meeting every month for conference, and business, when necessary. Besides the other proper officers, there is a standing clerk, whose duty it is to keep a regular record of the doings of the church. Every church reports its standing by letter, or a messenger appointed for that purpose, to the Quarterly Meeting to which it belongs, and thereby gives information of its condition four times in each year.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

These meetings are held once a quarter, or four times in a year. The meeting is usually commenced by singing, praying, and praising. It is organized by appointing a suitable person to preside during the transaction of business, and attending to the concerns of Zion, which is commonly on the morning of the firstday. There is a permanent clerk to each meeting who keeps a record of all the business. The residue of time is expended in preaching, and waiting on the Lord, as the great Head of the church may direct.

Each Q. Meeting represents, by letter or messengers, the standing of its churches to the next Yearly Meeting; so that the general state of the whole Connexion is known in each Yearly meeting.

YEARLY MEETINGS.

Each of these Meetings is convened once a year; and is organized, and attended to, like the Quarterly Meetings. It is understood to be the duty of the clerks of the several Yearly Meetings, to transmit a copy of their minutes to Eld. John Buzzell, of Parsonfield, Me. who is appointed to receive and record them, as a general Register for the Connexion. Thus, in an appropriate sense, the whole Connexion is "baptised by *one spirit* into *one body*."

ELDERS' CONFERENCE.

This conference follows or precedes the Yearly Meeting. Most of the Quarterly Meetings also have Quarterly Conferences. The mem-

bers of this conference, are Elders, licenced preachers, public exhorters, such as appoint and hold meetings, Deacons, Church Clerks, and Messengers to the Yearly Meeting. These conferences are well calculated to honor God, and promote his cause.

A CATALOGUE

Of Yearly and Quarterly Meetings; also of the names and residence of Preachers of the Gospel, &c. &c.

MAINE.

In the State of Maine there are two yearly meetings. The *first*, or *Western*, comprising *Parsonsfield* and *Gorham* quarterly meetings; the *second*, or *Eastern*, comprising *Edgecomb*, *Bowdoin*, *Farmington*, *Montville*, and *Exeter* quarterly meetings.

The first, or Western Yearly Meeting.

This meeting is held annually, on the first Saturday and Sabbath in November, alternately at Parsonsfield, and Gorham or Buxton. Elders' Conference, Monday following.

Parsonsfield Quarterly Meeting.

This meeting is held four times in a year, on the third Wednesdays and Thursdays in January, May, August, and October.

ORDAINED PREACHERS.

Names.	*Residence.*	*Names.*	*Residence.*
John Buzzell,	Pasonsfield,	Benj. S. Manson,	Not Stationary,
Samuel Burbank,	Newfield,	John Stevens,	Limington,
J. Bullock,	Limington,	Mayhew Clark,	Ossipee, N. H.
Jona. Woodman,	Effingham, N. H.	James Sawyer,	Porter,
Henry Hobbs,	Waterborough,	Elias Libby,	Limerick,
Richard Emery,	Lyman,	James Fly,	Hiram,
Joseph Goodwin,	Wells,	James Emery,	Limington,
H. Goodwin,	Hollis,	Joseph Davis,	Effingham,
James Gray,	Waterborough,		

Licensed Preacher—Shubael Baston, not stationary.

Number of Churches—19. Elder *Henry Hobbs*, Clerk.

Gorham Quarterly Meeting.

This meeting is held on the fourth Wednesdays and Thursdays in January, May, August and October.

ORDAINED PREACHERS.

Zachariah Leach,	Raymond,	Eph'm Stinchfield	N. Gloucester,
James Colley, Jr.	Gray.	Andrew Hobson,	Buxton,
Zachariah Jordan	do.	William Cobb,	Otisfield,
Clement Phinney,	Harrison,	Nathaniel Sturges,	Danville,
Jonathan Clay, Jr.	Buxton,		
George Parcher,	Saco,	Number of Churches—13.	
William Woodsom,	Sumner,		

The second, or Eastern Yearly Meeting.

This meeting is held annually on the first Saturday and Sabbath in September, alternately at Woolwich or its vicinity, and Mount Vernon or some other town within the bounds of the Farmington Quarterly Meeting.

Edgecomb Quarterly Meeting.

This meeting is held on the third Saturday and Sabbath in January, March and October, and the first in July.

ORDAINED PREACHERS.

George Lamb,	Brunswick,	Henry Meader,	Gardiner,
William Emerson,	Boothbay,	Josiah Farwell,	Not Stationary,
Jonathan Brown,	Bowdoinham,	Benjamin Thorn,	Lewiston,
Joseph Robinson,	do.	Samuel Hinkley,	Georgetown,
H. Purrington,	Bowdoin,	David Webber,	Squam Island,
N. Purrington.	do.	Barnabas Hedge,	Wiscasset,
C. Tracy,	Durham.	John M. Bailey,	Woolwich,
T. Cunningham,	Edgecomb,	Benaiah Pratt,	Not Stationary.
John Linnon,	Georgetown,		

James M'Cordy of Hallowell is an unordained preacher; also, John Hinkley of Georgetown, who received the approbation of the quarterly meeting, March 16, 1822.

CHURCHES.

The number of churches in December, 1822, was *sixteen.*

Bowdoin Quarterly Meeting.

This meeting was formed out of the Edgecomb q. m. at their session holden the 2d and 3d days of July last, and contains all the churches on the west side of the Kennebeck River. Its first meeting, after the division was holden at Bowdoin, the first Saturday and Sabbath in October last; but the established times to hold the meetings, I have not learned. Probably some of the Elders returned as belonging to the Edgecomb q. m. belong to the Bowdoin, but as I do not know their names, I have inserted them all as heretofore with the Edgecomb. I hope correct information will be given by next year.

Farmington Quarterly Meeting.

This meeting is held on the third Saturday and Sabbath in January, the first Saturday and Sabbath in June, the last Saturday and following Sabbath in August, and the third Saturday and Sabbath in October.

ORDAINED PREACHERS.

Ebenezer Scales,	Wilton,	Thomas Dudley,	Mount Vernon,
Ebenezer Brown,	do.	Isaac Porter,	do.
John Foster,	Jay,	Isaac Alby,	Anson,
Ward Lock,	Chesterville,	Benjamin Tufts,	Philips,
Timothy Johnson,	Farmington,	Isaac Tripp,	Temple,
Samuel Hutchings,	New-Portland,	Joseph Dyer,	Philips,
William Paine,	Anson,	N. Winship,	P. No. 6,
Edward Savage,	do.	Wilson Colcord,	Waterville,
John Trefethern,	Cornville,	Elias Hutchings,	Not Stationary,
Daniel Young,	Jerusalem,	H. Chandler,	do.
Henry Leach,	Mercer,		

Number of Churches—27.

Licensed Preachers.—Flavel Bartlet, Wilton; Stephen Williamson, Starks; Reuben Gray, do.; John Butler Mount Vernon.

Elder *Ward Locke*, Clerk.

Montville Quarterly Meeting.

It is holden on the third Saturday and Sabbath in June and September, and 3d Wednesday in December and March.

ORDAINED PREACHERS.

Samuel Whitney,	Brooks,	Lincoln Lewis,	Not stationary,
Moses M'Farland,	Montville,	Thomas Park,	Prospect,
John True,	do.	Allen Files,	Not stationary,
Samuel F. Whitten,	do.	E. Johnson,	Windsor,
Winthrop Frost,	Monroe,	Joab Brown,	Montville Plant.
Abraham Anthony,	Prospect,	Joseph Higgins,	Thorndike,
Joseph Gowin,	do.	Charles Warren,	do.
John Lamb,	Lincolnville,	Jesse Briggs,	do.
T. M'Kenney,	do.	E. Tasker,	Dixmont,
Abiezer Bridges,	China,	David Swett,	Newburgh,
Simon Emery,	Monroe,	Samuel Robbins,	Camden.

There are also several unordained preachers who belong to this meeting.

The number of churches is 25.

Exeter Quarterly Meeting.

Information has not yet been received of the times when this meeting is held.

ORDAINED PREACHERS.

Nathaniel Harvey,	Atkinson,	Josiah Bartlet,	Garland,
Asa Burnham,	Sebec,	John Page,	Exeter,
Jesse Burnham,	Maxfield,	Willim Knowles,	Harmony,
Joseph Osgood,	Exeter,	Samuel Wormwood,	Northhill.

No. Churches 10.—*It is understood that the wilderness, in this country, blossoms like the rose.* *Barchias Holt*, Clerk.

New-Hampshire Yearly Meeting.

This meeeting is held annually on the second Saturday and Sabbath in June, at such places, in the State of New-Hampshire, as is thought most proper to appoint from meeting to meeting. To this meeting belong three quarterly meetings, viz. New-Durham, Sandwich and Weare.

New-Durham Quarterly Meeting.

This meeting is held on the same days, throughout the year, that Parsonsfield Q. Meeting is held.

Moses Bean,	Candia,	Samuel B. Dyer,	Loudon,
Winthrop Young,	Canterbury,	Ebenezer Knowlton,	Pittsfield,
Peter Philbrick,	Deerfield,	William Saunders,	Strafford,
Abel Glidden,	Gilmanton,	Nathaniel Berry,	Farmington,
David Blaisdell,	Lebanon, Me.	Enoch Place,	Strafford,
Roger Copp,	do.	Nathaniel Wilson,	Barnstead,
William Buzzell,	Middleton,	John Knowles,	Gilmanton,
Thomas Flanders,	Wilton,	Arthur Caverno,	Epsom.
Thomas Bell,	Newcastle,		

Number of Churches, 27. Many of the churches in this Q. meeting, are very large. Elder *Enoch Place*, Clerk.

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting.

ORDAINED PREACHERS.

Daniel Elkins,	Adams,	Thomas Perkins,	do.
William Cass,	Alexandria,	—— Fisk,	do.
Samuel Hazeltine,	Bartlett,	D. Pettingale,	Sandwich,
Joshua Quimby,	Lisbon,	Israel Blake,	Ellsworth,
Josiah Magoon,	Newhampton,	David Bean,	Tamworth,
Simeon Dana,	do.	Isaac Townsend,	Wolfborough

Licensed Preachers—David Cowen, Lisbon, Jesse Bowles, do. Samuel Cole, do. Daniel Pinkham, Adams.

Number of Churches, 15.

The times of holding this meeting happen on Saturdays and Sabbaths following the third Wednesdays in January, May, August and October.

Elder *Simeon Dana*, Clerk.

Weare Quarterly Meeting,

Is held on the last Wednesday and Thursday in May, August and October; three times in a year.

ORDAINED PREACHERS.

Benj. Tolman,	Ashby, Mass.	32	William Dodge,	Sutton, Springfield,	24
Jonathan Rowe,	Bradford,	34		do. Vt.	8
Eben'r. Chase,	Enfield,	84	H. D. Buzzell,	Weare,	142
Timothy Morse,	Fishersfield,	79	D. Smith,	Weathersfield, Vt.	64
D. Harriman,	Hopkinton,	25	David Cross,	Wilmot,	38
Solomon Howe,	Newport,	81			
Elijah Watson,	Sutton,	44			

Unordained Preachers—Joseph Watson, Warner, and Jesse Whitiker, Weare.

Number of Churches, 13.

Vermont Yearly Meeting.

This meeting is held annually on the first Saturday and Sabbath in October. It has, belonging to it, three Quarterly Meetings, viz. Strafford, Huntington, and Wheelock.

Strafford Quarterly Meeting.

This meeting is held on the Saturdays and Sabbaths following the third Wednesdays in January, May, and August. One session is omitted to accommodate the Yearly Meeting.

ORDAINED PREACHERS.

D. Batchelder,	Coventry N. H.	Aaron Buzzell,	Strafford,
Nathaniel Bowles,	Corinth,	Nathaniel King,	Tunbridge,
Sep. Lathrop,	Groton,	George Hacket,	do.
James Morgan,	Cavendish,	Thomas Muxley,	do.
Ziba Pope,	Randolph,	Number of Churches, 14.	

Licensed Preachers—Peter Folsom, *Tunbridge*; Nathan Muxley, *do.*

Huntington Quarterly Meeting.

This meeting is held on the Saturdays and Sabbaths following the second Wednesdays in January, June, and September. There is also an occasional Q. Meeting held at other times, when it is judged expedient.

ORDAINED PREACHERS.

Samuel Webster,	Bolton,	J. Wetherbee,	Stow,
S. Robinson,	Grand Isle.	B. Maynard,	Starksborough,
Porter Thomas,	Florence, N. Y.	Samuel Lord,	Waterbury,
Calvin Huntley,	Duxbury,	Pearly Hale,	Enosburg,
Charles Bowles,	Huntington,	John S. Carter,	Benson.
Ziba Woodworth,	Montpelier,	Number of Churches, 12.	

Wheelock Quarterly Meeting.

This meeting is held on the last Saturday and following Sabbath in January, first Saturday and Sabbath in June, last Saturday and following Sabbath in August, and the last Saturday and following Sabbath in October.

ORDAINED PREACHERS.

Daniel Quimby,	Lyndon,	Caleb Ingalls,	Canaan,
Jonathan Nelson,	Wheelock,	Avery Moulton,	Stanstead, L. C.
Moses Norris,	Sutton,	Jonas Allen,	Navy.
Abel Bugbee,	Burke,	Thomas Jackson,	Not stationary.
David Kent,	Stewartstown, N. H.	Number of Churches, 19.	

New-York.

There is one yearly meeting in this state called the

Holland Purchase Yearly Meeting,

Which is held on the last Saturday and Sabbath in August, annually. This meeting consists of five Quarterly meetings. viz. Bethany, Benton, Erie, Owego, and Ontario.

Bethany Quarterly Meeting.

ORDAINED PREACHERS.

Rufus Cheney, Attica. Nathaniel Brown, Bethany. Hermon Jenkins, do. Elisha Collins, Clarkson. Eli Hannibal, do. ———Turner, Gaines. Josiah Fowler, Groveland. Daniel Lyon, Ontario. Jona. N. Hinkley, Parma.

Licensed Preachers.—Smith Rogers, Alexander. Sidney Rila ,Byron. Number of Churches, 14.

Benton Quarterly Meeting.

This meeting is held on Saturday and Sabbath beginning the Saturday before the 2d Sabbath in January, May, August, and October. Elders' Conference, Friday preceding.

ORDAINED PREACHERS.

Zebulon Dean, Benton. Samue Wire, Barrington. Israel Craw, Brutus. Amos Perry, Italy. Solomon P. Colver, Junius. Orin Abbet, Middlesex. Manoah Delling, Sodus. Benjamin Rolph, Williamson.

Licensed Preachers.—James Begnul, Catlin. John Pratt do. Hermon Bruce, Galen. Number of Churches, 18.

Owego Quarterly Meeting.

This meeting is held on the fourth Saturdays and Sabbaths in February, May, August and October.

ORDAINED PREACHERS.

Amos Daniels, Dryden, Edward E. Dodge, do. Asa Dodge Jr. Not Stationary.

Unordained Preachers.—Hiram Jones, *Candor;* Peregrine P. Foster, *Troy, Pa.* No. churches, 7.

Ontario Quarterly Meeting.

A new Quarterly Meeting, by the name of Ontario, q. m. is appointed and will hold its first meeting in Ontario, N. Y. the last Saturday and Sabbath in Jan. 1826. I have not learned what number of churches and elders compose this meeting; but shall probably know hereafter. The stated times to hold this meeting will probably be established at the meeting in January.

FOR THE INFORMER.

Respected Brother.

I now forward you the annual return of the Rhode-Island quarterly meeting, by which it will be seen that there is a small increase, and the addition of one church.

The October q. m. was held at the usual time, in Burrillville, at

some distance from the meeting house. By the reports from the churches it appeared to be rather a low time among the brethren in some of them. The epistle from the church in Middletown, Connecticut, gave the melancholly information of the death of their beloved Pastor, Elder Josiah Graves, and of his daughter also, a member of the church. This is a very afflicting dispensation of Divine Providence to that infant church, situated at such a distance from the body of their brethren, and surrounded with much opposition. Their entreaties for help were duly appreciated by the brethren in the ministry, and an arrangement was made by five of them to visit them once a month for 5 months, unless they should be otherwise provided for. It is considered that in that region there is a large field opened for successful labour, and may the Lord of the harvest send them a faithful labourer.

On the sabbath, the q. m. was held in the morning at two places, at one of which the spirit of the Lord had free course and was glorified. Six persons rose desiring the prayers of the brethren. In the afternoon the meeting was held in the field.

The next q. m. was appointed at Smithfield on the 2d sabbath and saturday preceding in January next. The Elders' conference the Friday preceding.

Your brother in Christ, Job Armstrong.

Names of the ordained preachers belonging to the R. I. q. m. with their places of residence.

Joseph White,	Glocester.	H. N. Loring,	Raynham, Ms.
Reuben Allen,	Pawtucket.	Ahab Read,	Blackstone, do.
Daniel Greene,	do.	Abel Thornton,	Johnston.
Daniel Williams,	Glocester.	*Unordained.*	
J. M. Darling,	travelling.	Smith Fairfield.	

Churches.	*Mem.*	*Pastors.*	*Churches.*	*Mem.*	*Pastors.*
Burrilville,	165	J. White.	Rehoboth, do.	80	
Smithfield,	120	do.	Foster,	57	D. Williams.
Pawtucket,	67	R. Allen.	Middletown Ct.	25	
Glocester,	51	do.	2nd Bapt. Ch. in Smithfield.	9	A. Read.
Taunton, Ms.	66	do.		—	
Mendon, do.	50	J. White.		690	

Ohio Yearly Meeting.

This meeting is holden annually on the second Saturday and Sabbath in October. To this meeting belong four Quarterly Meetings, viz, Miami, Huron, Athens, and Marion.

Miami Quarterly Meeting.

This meeting is situated partly in Indiana, and partly in Ohio, adjoining.

ORDAINED PREACHERS.

Marcus Kilborn, *Rising Sun*, county of Switzerland; Benjamin Leavitt, county of Jefferson; Alexander Sebastion. These three Elders live in the State of Indiana Moses Dudley and Benjamin Tufts are Elders belonging to this Q. Meeting, but live in the State of Ohio.

Huron Quarterly Meeting.

The number of Ordained Preachers belonging to this q. m. is three, the names of two of them is Allen Mead and John Wheeler, the other's

name I do not know, neither the towns in which either of them reside. The number of churches, six.

Athens Quarterly Meeting.

ORDAINED PREACHERS.

John Sleeper, Alexander, Sames E. Brown, Rutland.

Unordained Preachers.—Jeremiah Carpenter, *Columbia*, and Daniel Romine, *Morgantown*; all in Ohio.

No. churches, 4. *George Davis*, Clerk.

Marion Quarterly Meeting.

The number of Elders, two, viz. David Dudley and Samuel Bradford. Number of churches four.

Wayne Quarterly Meeting.

A Quarterly meeting is established in the state of Ohio, called the Wayne Quarterly Meeting, and held its first meeting on the last Saturday and Sabbath in May last. Eld. James Peters of Gustavus, Trumbull Co. Ohio, is an Ordained preacher in this q. m. and brethren Ebenezer Cole of Poland and Horace Morse of Kinsman are unordained preachers. *This q. m. has not yet united with the yearly meeting.*

It is to be regretted that we cannot give information of the times in which the q. ms. belonging to the Ohio Y. M. are holden, neither the residence of the preachers, but hope next year to be able to do both.

The Ohio yearly meeting will hold its next session at Hamilton Township, Warren Co. O. 2d Saturday in October 1826.

By a communication to the last O. Y. M. by Elder Leavitt it appears that there are many churches in the state of Indiana that are established and practice much in the order of the Freewill Baptists, and it appears necessary only to become acquainted with each other, in order to be one people.

Pennsylvania Yearly Meeting

Is held the first Saturday and Sabbath in September, annually. Concerning this meeting the Editor's knowledge is very imperfect. It is supposed to be small.

I am not able to ascertain precisely the number of members belonging to the several churches in this connexion; but from the best calculation I can make, there are 16,346.

BEYOND THE ATLANTIC.

It appears by several communications from England, that there is a community in that country, whose sentiments and church order are similar to those of the Free Will Baptist in America. It is not yet ascertained how large this sect in England is, or how many churches and ministers belong to it. At an Association held by them, Elder Adam Taylor, of London, was appointed agent for that people to correspond with this people in America.

At the N. H. Yearly Meeting in June, 1825, Eld. John Buzzell was appointed agent for this Connexion to correspond with the said Adam Taylor. It is not predicted what will be the result of this correspondence; time will determine.

FOR THE INFORMER.

Saltrock, Marion Co. Ohio, Oct. 14, 1825.

FRIEND,

Having been silent some months, I take my pen to inform thee that I have not forgotten Zion, and to give some information relative to her

prosperity. In Nov. 1824, I left N. Y. intending to go as far west as the Missisippi; travelled through Pa. preaching occasionally, and entered this state in the latter part of the month. In Salem I stayed one week; there had been and then was, a glorious reformation in that, and three or four adjacent towns, in which about 300 had professed faith in Christ. Dec. 4th visited Milan in Hebron Co. attended several meetings, and found the church in that place rather low, but yet contending for the faith of the gospel. Dec. 12 I visited and preached in Sandusky Co. where there had been a small reformation, through the instrumentality of Elder John Mugg. The 2d meeting I attended, I think, was favoured with the divine presence, and several manifested a desire for salvation. Here my horse got stifled, which disenabled me to pursue my journey; and leaving my horse, I borrowed another, returned to Huron Co. and visited all the churches (except Harrisville) of the Huron Qr. M. In Greenfield I held six or eight meetings, and saw little or no fruit of my labour. The church in that place was reduced to a small number, and their visibility scarcely retained. In Clarksfield held four meetings, which, I think, were profitable. Since that time the Lord has blessed them, and several have found the inestimable pearl.

After preaching in 7 or 8 towns in Huron Co. I returned to York; and finding my horse still unfit for use, and likely to be, I took a school in York, and made four stated appointments in a week; 2 in Greencreek, and 2 in York; in both of which places we had good times, and a few more hopefully converted to the knowledge of the truth. Jan. 16th was appointed for to baptise. Only 2 or 3 were intending to go forward in the ordinance; but the meeting and performance were attended with such solemnity and power, that seven were convinced of duty and baptised by Eld. Mugg. This was a refreshing time. Jan. 23d was appointed for the organization of a church. A little before the meeting Eld. S. Bradford, of N. Y. came into the place, unexpectedly. His coming was as the coming of Titus. He preached an instructing and affecting discourse from Acts 7, 1. "Are these things so," after which he gave the hand of fellowship to 11, acknowledging them a church of Christ; who covenanted to take the Bible for their only visible rule of faith and practice; to search it carefully and prayerfully, and endeavour to walk according to its requirements.

While in York I generally preached 5 or 6 times in a week, and, after teaching school, walked 5 miles, in winding paths, thro' woods, to my evening appointments. Some times I was unable to get to them till after dark; and got lost in the wood three times, but made my escape without much trouble. But the Lord frequently gave me much freedom in speaking, and seed was sown, which, I believe, will yet bring forth fruit to the glory of God.

March 16 and 17, I left York and Greencreek, intending to visit the countries farther west, travelled into Bigisland, Marion Co. where I found many people, assemblied to hear Eld. David Dudley preach. Being a stranger, I stayed the outside of the crowd till after sermon, then stepped in the door, and spake a few minutes with much freedom; several were seriously affected, among whom was Esq. H. who soon after professed to find remission of sins. Here I met with Br. R. Hopkins, who solicited me to hold a meeting at his house in Saltrock. I sent an appointment, and (after preaching several times in Bigisland)

fulfilled it. The assembly was large, for a new country, very attentive, and solemn; at the close, nearly the whole congregation kneeled. Here, contrary to my calculation, I felt it duty to tarry and preach to the people; and thinking I had permission of Him who called me to be a soldier, I took another school, and made stated appointments as before.

During some weeks after I first went to Saltrock and Grand townships, (my school house being near the line between) a dark cloud appeared to hang over the people, and a solemn gloom veiled my mind the greater part of the time. In preaching I was much shut up and part of the time tried. But in the latter part of April, the cloud brake and disappeared; and the gloom was removed from my mind. On the 24th of the month I preached to a large and weeping assembly from Luke 9, 25. "For what is a man advantaged if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or he be a castaway." And in the afternoon from the 23 v. of the same chap. "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." The power of the Lord was present, some were very seriously wrought upon, and soon after brought to rejoice in God. In the evening meeting Col. C. cried out for mercy, and in less than a week professed faith in Christ. For some months after this, we had good times, the power of the Lord being frequently present to heal; the number of converts increased till about 15 had given evidence of having been born again; and several were reclaimed from a backsliden state. Eld. Dudley has baptised 11 of the converts.

Serious impressions appeared to be almost general. About 20 professed seekers, (many of whom, I think, were deeply convicted) with 5 or 6 professors of religion, were united together, in the time of the reformation, by Mr. D—n, as a church or religious society, and meetings appointed close by, and at the same hour of my stated appointments, for this society to meet, pray, talk to and with each other. Many left the meetings where God awakened them, and went with those with whom they had covenanted. [If the blind lead the blind, they will both fall into the ditch; and a house, built of unhewn stone cannot stand.] The effect of these proceedings, was sorrowful. Those that I had often seen weep, whose sighs had often broken the silence of our meetings, I saw come to meeting no more. This troubled me not; but when I learned that their tears had dried up, and their sighs ceased, and they still without Christ, my soul was filled with anguish, and made to weep in secret places. But 2 or 3 of the above mentioned seekers have professed to find Christ, and I fear their condition is far worse than it was some months ago, when they had a sense of their situation. Had it not been for unscriptural practice, and the influence of others, I believe, the greater part would have been happy in redeeming love months since. I write these things with a heavy heart, not to hurt the feelings of any, but for a caution to those who name the name of Christ, to be careful how they walk, how they influence others, and what they say, especially in the times of reformation; lest they "hurt the oil and the wine," hinder the work of God, and thereby keep souls from the kingdom of God.

In the first part of Aug. it was impressed on my mind that my work was done in this place, and that I should not see another soul converted, although several appeared to be under serious conviction. I told

my impressions in public; a few days after was taken sick of a fever, and have preached in the place but 4 times since; neither has any been converted to my knowledge. The feelings of my mind after this I cannot fully describe; in prayer for sinners in this place I could find little or no access; in preaching repentance to them it appeared I had no message, and that there was no room to receive it; constantly it rung in my ears, they, having the offer of life, have rejected Christ. O how awful are the consequences of refusing calls of mercy, and resisting the Holy Ghost!

In my illness I was at Father Bates' (one of the best families in the world) where I had every attention necessary, and a skillful physician, who made no charges. The fever was rather light, yet I was confined about a month, and my weakness was such that I was able to preach but twice in six weeks. I am now regaining my strength, and feel thankful to God for his merciful dealings and loving kindness to his unworthy Servant. During my stay in this region I have frequently held meetings in Big Island, where I have had refreshing seasons, especially in the monthly meetings of the church in that place. The church consists of 50 or 60 members, is under the pastoral care of Eld. Dudley, and is, I think the happiest society I ever saw. This church with three others have formed a Qr. M. called Marion Qr. M. The Lord is increasing the army of the faithful in this western region, and although my labours appear as cheap as the dust, I feel to rejoice in the work of God. O may it continue to increase till men shall learn that the "most high liveth," and nations worship the God of heaven.

Yesterday, Oct. 13th I preached my farewell to an attentive congregation, in Grand township. The converts and brethren, although surrounded by a gainsaying world, remain steadfast in the faith of the gospel, and bound for heaven. I have been from home a year, yesterday; to day start for N. Y.

DAVID MARKS, JR.

FOR THE INFORMER.

Fishersfield, N. H. December, 6th, 1825.

DEARLY BELOVED BROTHER CHASE,

In my late communication, I stated (among other things) the good beginning of the work of God in the town of Strafford, Vt. I have now the satisfaction to state, that at my return from Springfield Quarterly Meeting, to Strafford, the work took a new movement, and went on with much more rapidity than before, and now the number of converts in Strafford and in some of the adjacent towns, is about 100. Among these are found a number of the first characters in town. I cannot but remark how it adds to the lustre and dignity of those official characters, to receive the image of Jesus Christ, who is the very perfection of dignity, honour and beauty. O that all would go and do likewise! I have witnessed a number of reformations in my time, but I think I never saw such a great degree of solemnity in any refor-

mation as was manifested in this. Every one appeared to be striving for a complete victory over sin, and to honour God by obeying all his commands.

Having done what, I think, God has commanded me, for the present, in this place, and having a special impression on my soul to go to another town or city, I have just returned home to see my family, and in a few days must go again.

The joy and blessedness of being devoted to God in his service is so great and advantageous, especially for the ambassador of Christ, that I must beg leave once more to entreat all my brethren in the ministry, not to allow themselves to live in a situation where they are not pained for the salvation of sinners, for if we say by our profession, that we are God's mouth to them, we take on ourselves a great responsibility, and the account we must give to our Judge must be amazing solomn; yet if we are faithful in the discharge of this *High Calling*, there is no calling in life that affords so rich a revenue. God is honoured, souls are saved and we are happy in God. But O the unhappy Shepherp or watchman that makes his preaching a by-business, placing it in subordination to the world! He sees the sword coming on the sinner, but he has not time to warn him, so the sinner dies, and his blood is required at the watchman's hand! Let us all be careful and shun a dreadful doom like this. I must close up now, and communicate some more of my mind when I have time and room.

Farewell in Christ. TIMOTHY MORSE.

LIGHT IN DARKNESS.

Some years ago, a respectable tradesman of the city of London, of unquestionable piety, was exceedingly troubled in his mind respecting the safety of his future state. During a bodily affliction which eventually proved fatal, he became still more doubtful of his interest in Christ, although many friends endeavoured to encourage him relying on the all-sufficiency of that grace, on which his hopes had been fixed for years previously to his being thus tempted. A short time before his disollution, he exclaimed with horror and anguish, "I die an infirmed hypocrite!" A friend, by his bed-side, seeing him apparently motionless, said, "He is gone!" which the wife (who was in an adjoining room) hearing, immediately came in, and, with strong emotions of grief, threw herself on the bed of her supposed lifeless husband; when to the great surprise of surrounding friends, he again opened his eyes, and fixing them on his wife, said (as though he were quite assured of his eternal safety,) "Cruel love! cruel love! I was just entering my

heavenly father's gate, and you have disturbed me!" and instantly expired.

The reader may judge how great relief such an exclamation must have afforded those Christian friends who but a few moments before, were the sad witness of his despair. Timid Christians should learn from this, to be cautious of forming such rash conclusions respecting their final doom. Nor should surviving friends conclude, that the death-bed of those whose lives and conduct have been consistent with the gospel of Christ, is without hope, because they cannot leave such pleasant and visible testimony as is desirable.—*London Evan. Mag.*

BACKBITING.

There is a powerful propensity in human nature to what is properly denominated *backbiting i. e.* to make the faults familiar conversation. This is a vice so mean, so mischievous, so cowardly, so characteristic of littleness as well as malignity, that every holy man should hate it, and every wise man should be ashamed of it.

O what wisdom, mercy and beauty is there in this direction.—"If thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his faults between him and thee alone; if he shall hear thee thou hast gained thy brother."

If religion be the star you sail by, doubt not of a good voyage: at least you are sure of a good harbour.

He was not born in vain who dieth as he ought.

God denies the Christian nothing, but with a design to give him something better.

RELIGIOUS INFORMER.

A work, having the above title, has been published monthly, by Elder Ebenezer Chase of Enfield, N. H. during six years past, but as several persons, who wished for the information it contained, did not feel able to pay the expense of the paper and postage, the publisher, by the advice of the Elders' Conference, concludes to publish it in a form that will render it so cheap, that the poorest brother or sister can be supplied with it. The Informer is so generally known, that it will not be necesary to make many remarks in this prospectus; but only observe, that the principal design is to give accounts of revivals of religion in different places, accounts of Yearly and Quarterly meetings of the Freewill Baptist connexion, Ordinations of preachers, &c. and in the December number of each year, will be inserted a general statement of the connexion throughout the United States.

All who wish to have a medium of communication continued in the connexion, are requested to use their influence to increase the circulation of the Informer by soliciting subscriptions.

CONDITIONS.

1. To be published quarterly, i. e. in the months of March, June, September, and December; each number to contain 24 pages duodecimo, and stitched, and put to subscribers at 25 cents a year.

2. Any person, subscribing and paying for 5 sets, shall have them for one dollar a year, and 11 sets for two dollars. Postage paid by subscri-

bers, which will be one and a half cents a number, for any distance short of a hundred miles, and over one hundred, two and a half cents.

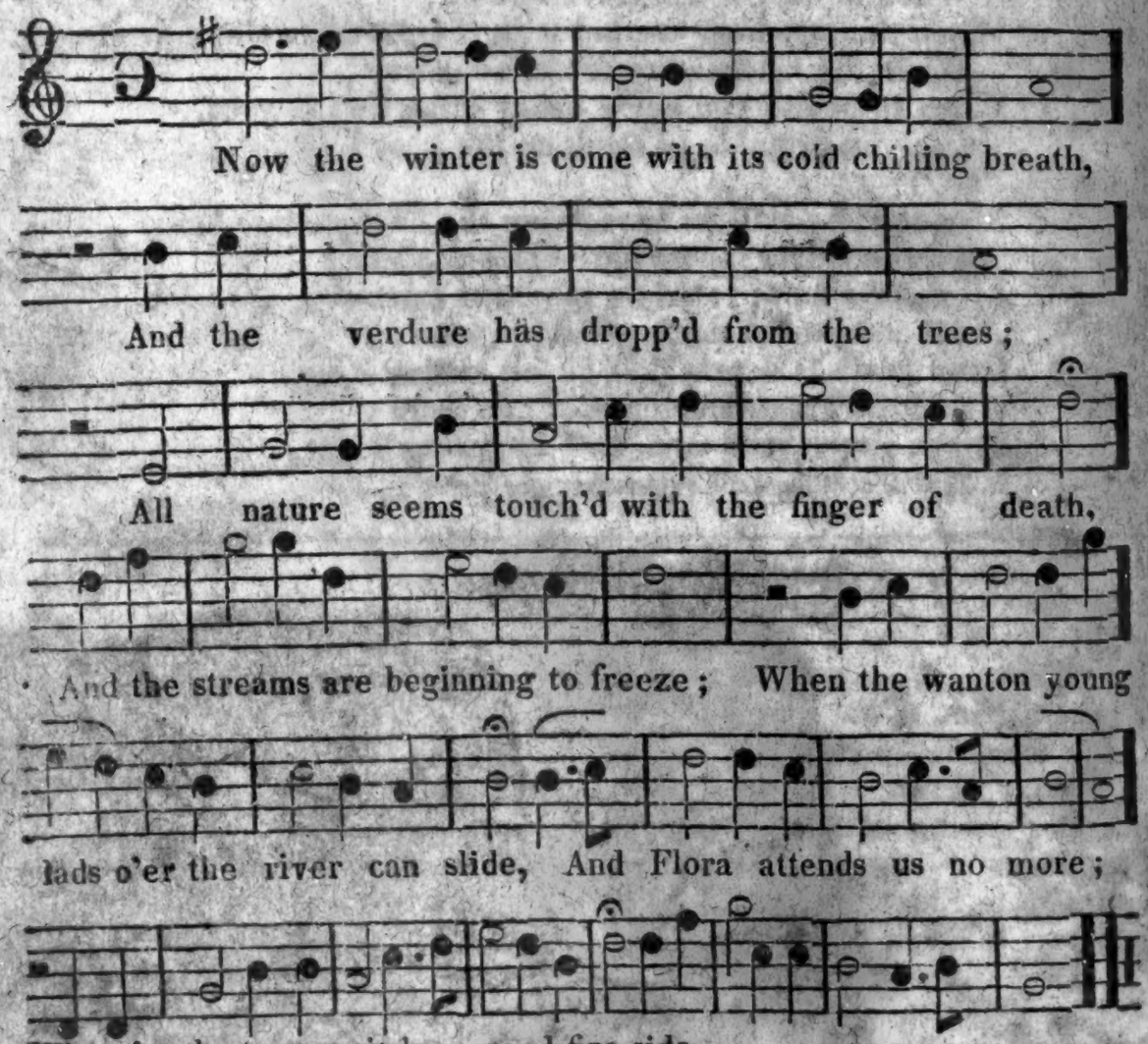
Communications must be addressed to Ebenezer Chase, Post Master, Enfield, N. H.

DIED,—In Parsonsfield, Me. April 28th; Elder Christopher Bullock, aged 94. In his last sickness, he was much resigned to the will of God, having a good hope of a glorious immortality. Eld. J. Buzzell preached a sermon on the occasion, from Luke ii. 29, 30, 31, 32.—"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace," &c.

In Sandwich, N. H. Nov. 15, after an illness of four years, which he bore with christian patience; Eld. Joseph Quimby, aged 64.

In Salisbury, Sept. 12, Martha, daughter of Mr. Ebenezer Philbrick, aged 6 years.

WINTER.



2 When the cold feather'd snow does in plenty descend,
And whitens the prospect around;
When the keen cutting winds from the north shall attend,
Hard chilling and freezing the ground;
When the hills and the dales are all candid with white,
When the rivers congeal to the shore,

When the bright twinkling stars shall proclaim a cold night,
Then remember the state of the poor.

3 When the poor harmless hare may be trac'd to the wood
By her footsteps indented in snow;
When the lips and the fingers are starting with blood;
When the sportsman for pleasure shall go;
When the poor robin red breast approaches the cot,
When the icicles hang at the door;
When the bowl smokes with something reviving and hot,
That's the time to remember the poor.

4 When a thaw shall ensue, and the waters increase,
And the rivers all insolent grow;
When the fishes from prison obtain a release,
When in danger the travellers go;
When the meadows are hid with the proud swelling flood,
When the bridges are useful no more,
When in health you enjoy every thing that is good,
Can you grumble to think on the poor?

5 Soon the day will be here when the Saviour was born,
All the world should agree as one voice;
All nations unite to salute the blest morn—
All ends of the earth should rejoice;
Grim death is depriv'd of his all killing sting,
And the grave is triumphant no more;
Saints, angels, and men, hallelujahs shall sing,
And the rich shall remember the poor.

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